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ANTI-SEMITISM

OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION on December 11 by the Polish Government of the minority rights clause of the Versailles Treaty as part of the law of the land no doubt will help compose the situation within Poland somewhat and diminish the persecution of the Jews. But, like all laws, it will need sympathetic administration to be at all effective, and action or non-action will show whether there really is any sincere disposition by the Polish Roman Catholic Christians to ease up on the persecution. Real amity and honest enforcement of the law would directly and simply modify an internal problem now vexing the United States, for it is from the centers of anti-Semitic persecution that hordes of prospective emigrants to the United States are finding their way to Baltic seaports and thence to the United States. Congress, in the new immigration legislation that will be enacted at this session, may so rule as to exclude much of this proposed "exodus," in which case a bettered state of affairs in Poland would draw some of the fleeing Jews back there.

Regrettable as the fact may be, it is certain that both in western Europe and in America there is more openly avowed anti-Semitic feeling today than has existed before. After you have discounted much of it as due the "post-war complex" that breeds divisions of all sorts—racial, vocational, religious, political and commercial—and that gives the world today an aspect of universal disintegration, you have to reckon with other causes for the range and intensity of the anti-Semitic crusade. Some of it is based on the reading and acceptance as true of an alleged document purporting to give the details of a plan to which Jews, it is said, everywhere assent, the same having for its purpose the domination of the Gentile world. The document is unquestionably a "fake," but it is widely read and is accepted as true by the gullible.

Jews are now attacked by two groups of critics, one group attaching to them responsibility for bringing on the war and "queering" the Peace Conference's decisions, in order to promote their personal, family, and racial pecuniary interests, and the other group crediting them with responsibility for the radicalism now rampant throughout the world, and especially the Russia communistic form of it.

The situation is such that any lighting of new firebrands of hatred of any kind is most deplorable; and the more so if for the first time in its history the United States adds to its already acute race problems one that will array against each other the followers of Christianity and of Judaism. We are glad to note that the Federal Council of Churches, at its recent meeting in Bos-

ton, went on record condemning any attempt to ostracise, punish, or otherwise make uncomfortable a man whose only offense is that of being of the seed of Abraham and of the race of Jesus. Equally commendable is the elaborate challenge recently issued by representative men, orthodox and liberal Jews, calling upon Mr. Henry Ford to prove the charges against the Jews that from week to week he sends forth in his weekly newspapers.

On the other hand, it must be said with some frankness that there is some peril in the situation if Jewish moderates and loyalists, who are neither proletarians nor plutocrats, radicals nor reactionaries, do not watch out. They are likely to be drawn into indiscriminate attack on critics and into equally non-judicial glorification and defense of all their race. Like other races in the United States that during the past six years have formed "blocks" for group ends, they can add fuel to the flames of attack by any show of solidarity that puts race above everything else.

Rightly or wrongly, the intense nationalistic spirit of the United States at the present time is hardening into a very militant and grim attitude toward all "groups" that make the nation secondary to their group interests.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

DELEGATES from the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan, forming a commission of investigation known as the International Communications Congress, have been in session in Washington for two months. They have been acting for their respective governments in the rôle of experts, ascertaining precisely what the conditions now are governing collection and transmission of information throughout the world, and debating ways and means of co-operating and controlling cable and radio lines, both those that are owned and operated by governments and those that are privately owned and managed.

The commission has not found it possible always to agree on all important phases of this problem, but as it closes its work and its delegates report back to their several governments, it has issued a preliminary report for the benefit of the public to prove that it has not sat in vain. The recommendations of the commission, after being considered by the governments they represent, will, it is hoped, come before a World's Communication Congress, to be called later in the year.

A draft has been made of a code covering all forms of electrical communications—by telegraph, cable, and